



Kaiserslautern Military Community Retiree Activities Office

Fact Sheet: Driver's Licensing – Non SOFA

Background: You could legally drive with a valid (not expired) stateside license and International License in a rental car for up to 90 days. However, anyone residing in Germany must obtain a European (German) Driver's License within 6-months. You will be required to get a German License.

Actions Required:

U.S. citizens planning to stay less than a year may legally drive in Germany up to 364 days on their valid U.S. license. However, you must go to their local driver's registration office (Fuhrerscheinstelle) prior to expiration of the six month period after arrival and notify that office that you will continue to drive on your U.S. license until departure.

An official translation of the U.S. driver's license must be brought to the Fuhrerscheinstelle, as well as proof that you are leaving Germany before a year is passed. This could be in the form of a return ticket to the U.S., a work contract with an expiration date before a year, etc.

If you do not fall into the section above you will require a German license within 6 months. You may fall under approved exemptions to both the driving and written exams. Individual states in the U.S. have reciprocal agreements that would allow you to be exempt from the written, driving or both exams. Not all states have reciprocal agreements so you need to determine, based on your state license, what you will be required to do to get your German driver's license.

As of June 2015, these states are exempt from both the road and written tests:

Alabama	Arizona	Arkansas	Colorado
Delaware	Idaho	Illinois	Iowa
Kansas	Kentucky	Louisiana	Massachusetts
Maryland	Michigan	New Mexico	Ohio
Oklahoma	Pennsylvania	South Carolina	South Dakota
Texas	Utah	Virginia	West Virginia
Washington State	Wisconsin	Wyoming	Puerto Rico

License holders from these states can submit an application for a German Driver's license directly to their local Stadtverwaltung (Fuhrerscheinstelle). An applicant will usually be asked to present the following documents:

- An official identification document such as a passport
- A residency registration certificate from the Einwohnermeldeamt
- The original U.S. license together with the German translation
- A statement by the applicant that the license is still valid
- A recent photograph (35mm x 45 mm)
- Documentation of a recent eye test is often required

These states have a partial reciprocity agreement (exemption from the road test):

Connecticut	Florida
Indiana	Minnesota
Mississippi	Missouri
Nebraska	North Carolina
Oregon	Tennessee
District of Columbia	

License holders from these states should also approach their local Stadtverwaltung (Fuhrerscheinstelle) to submit an application for a German license and to be registered for the written test. The test can be taken in English and costs approximately EUR 40, and includes a separate test of German license-related vocabulary.

This information is summarized from the U.S. Embassy website, http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/drivers_license. The website may be updated periodically so review the information to determine if the information has changed. Final authority on driving in Germany rests with the German Ministry of Transport.

If you are required to take both the written and drivers test, you should review the requirements by going to your local Fuhrerscheinstelle.

There are numerous websites that can also provide information. One website is www.german-way.com. This is for expats living in Germany.

Contacts: Via telephone at DSN 480-5486 or Civilian 06371-47-5486 (Leave a message if no one is in) or write an e-mail to: 86aw.rao@ramstein.af.mil

OPR: 86 AW/RAO, Pam Rutkowski, 7 Jul 2015